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# RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

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RHODE  
HISTORICAL



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### The Inscribed Rocks of Narragansett Bay

BY EDMUND B. DELABARRE

#### V. The "Written-Rocks" at Tiverton

The town of Tiverton, lying across the Sakonnet River from Portsmouth, was once, like the latter, a centre for the activities of the ancient rock-inscribers. There is evidence that there was formerly a considerable number of rocks in Tiverton whose surfaces served as tablets for the primitive engraver. Some of them have been destroyed, some used in constructing stone walls or foundations, some covered deep with the debris of storms, so that now there is only one exposed to view. By the aid of the chart published in a previous paper<sup>1</sup>, and of the photographs that accompany this one<sup>2</sup>, it will be easy to find it. The main road from Fall River to Sakonnet passes near the place, which is about five miles south of the Stone Bridge, and a short dis-

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<sup>1</sup> These Collections, Jan. 1921, xiv. 17; lower chart of Plate XIV.

<sup>2</sup> Plate XVIII. The writer is indebted to Mr. John R. Hess for these photographs.

tance southwest of Tiverton Four Corners. Leaving the main road near the latter place, a by-road leading westerly is taken, either the one just north or equally well the one just south of Nonquit Pond. This is followed, with the necessary turns as indicated on the chart, until we pass the wharf south of Fogland Point and proceed nearly to High Hill, walking down to the beach just before the latter is reached. A short distance from High Hill, on the next little point north of it, about opposite the number 16 that appears as a depth-indication on the chart, is a group of large "graywacke" or sandstone boulders on the shore between the low and the high water levels. The only one of these that is inscribed is marked with an X in the photograph showing the appearance of the group, and is thus readily identified. It is the most southerly and farthest in-shore of the larger boulders. North of this group, about half-way to the wharf, is a ledge of similar rock, with a fish-weir at its southerly end.

A very striking feature of the situation consists in the enormous masses of water-worn stones that cover the beach and rise up in thick deposits behind the group of boulders. The photograph shows their appearance better than words can describe it. Some of the inscribed boulders that, as late at least as 1835, were plainly exposed to view, now lie completely buried by these storm-tossed fragments. The spot impressed Dr. Webb, when he viewed it, as apparently "one of Nature's favorite battle grounds; and the great masses of rock scattered around and piled upon one another, near by, indicate the ravages which at some distant period here took place. The inroads made upon most of these boulders, by the action of winds, and tides and storms, are strongly evidenced by the singularly cellulated or honeycombed appearance they present." He expressed the opinion that the great September gale of 1815 was responsible for serious damage to the inscriptions, since "the water swept with such tremendous violence and power over the ground where the Inscription-Monuments are situated, that it bore along with it rocks, and sand and gravel, which so ground in upon the faces of them as to occasion their present impaired



condition."<sup>1</sup> But though thus injured, none of the rocks were then covered by the piles of loose stones. This had happened, however, by 1868, when Dr. Samuel A. Green reported that he could find only one of them<sup>2</sup>. The present owner of the place, Mr. Leon F. Almy, tells me that about ten years ago the beach back of the rock was washed up two or three feet higher than before. Both he and the writer have, at different times, thrown aside considerable quantities of the overlying stones in the endeavor, as yet unsuccessful, to uncover additional inscriptions; but a year later the stones had been washed back again. Evidently the spot is still "one of Nature's favorite battle grounds"; and we may well hope that in her changing moods she may some day wash away these obstructing stones and again reveal the missing inscriptions.

The single inscription now observable is on a nearly plane surface of rock measuring about four by seven feet, inclined a little to the north of west at an angle of 23° to the horizontal. The lines are pecked in, with a depth usually of 2 to 5, though occasionally as much as 8 millimeters. One possibly artificial cup near the center is 15 millimeters deep and 60 in diameter. On account of the conditions of lighting, it is difficult to secure photographs which show the carvings clearly. Probably the one here presented, in Plate XVIII, is as successful as any that could be made without artificial lighting. It was taken on October 29, 1919, just at sunset of a day without clouds or mist, with the light glancing low across the face in such manner as to throw the figures into the greatest possible relief, and with the daylight supplemented slightly by a not very successfully working flashlight.

Examination of the rock itself, and comparison of these photographs with the earlier drawings of Plates XIX and XX, show several features of interest. The most prominent and certain artificial markings are a figure shaped like the number 4, an oval or diamond with central dot, an ill-shaped X, some zigzags, and finally the crude figure of a man, about two feet in

<sup>1</sup> *Antiquitates Americanae*, 1837, p. 403.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Amer. Antiqu. Soc.*, Oct. 21, 1868, p. 13.

length, with cross-lines running from each shoulder to opposite hip. Mr. Almy thinks that the man is represented as hanging from a gibbet, and there is some faint suggestion of this in the drawing of 1768. The surface of the rock above the inscribed portion and to a slight extent below it is deeply and intricately pitted and honeycombed, and is evidently soft enough to have been subjected to great decay and wear. But the inscribed surface itself is of more resistant material, and clearly has suffered little in the course of 150 years. Stiles' careful drawing shows not only the artificial lines but also many of the natural pittings and flakings of the surface "incrustation," distinguished by dots between the lines. These features remain now, in size, shape and position, almost exactly what they were in his day. The "graywacke" of this boulder is very similar to that of Dighton Rock and the other inscribed rocks of this region. It has often been asserted that the rate of wear of these surfaces is very rapid and that the consequent gradual disappearance of the carvings is easily perceptible even in a single lifetime. For Dighton Rock I reached the conclusion that this is a psychological impression only, and that actual erosion is so slow as to have made no appreciable change in the appearance of the figures since the time of their earliest observation. The fortunate circumstance that in this case Stiles depicted the more prominent natural features of the surface a hundred and fifty years ago, enables us to prove that, in spite of its exposure to unusually severe batterings by storm, stones and ice, the Tiverton rock has suffered little, and thus strongly supports the same belief concerning the other rocks also.

Mr. Almy informs me that "this property has never been out of my family since the settlement of this State, and has been handed down from father to son with the single exception that I took it from my uncle. In questioning my grandfather, Samuel E. Almy, Sr., who was born in 1800, he told me that no one as far back as he could inquire of his ancestors could name the origin of these markings, and it had always been referred to in the family as the 'Writing Rock'."

We have already learned that Dr. Ezra Stiles, while minister



at Newport and even later when he was President of Yale College, was intensely interested in sculptured rocks, and visited, described and made drawings of all that were reported to him which he could easily reach. His manuscript notes and drawings, which he called his "Itinerary," so far as they deal with this particular subject, have never heretofore been published, and yet are of large importance for thorough study of these monuments. So far as we know, he was the first person who investigated the "Written Rocks," as he called them, in Tiverton. He went there first a year after his first inspection of the Dighton and Portsmouth rocks, arriving on June 6, 1768, and lodging with Mr. John Almy, son of Col. Job Almy, who died in 1767. Mr. Almy was deaf, and consequently Dr. Stiles wrote down in his Itinerary (volume ii, page 345) certain questions which he wished to ask him. We can infer from the context the answers that he received. Including these within brackets, the following is the record of their conversation:

"Please to tell me how I may find the Rock markt with Characters in your Farm.' [Location of two or more such rocks given by Mr. Almy.] 'Do you know any other?' ['Yes; but it has been destroyed.'] 'How long ago?' ['Six years.'] '1762?' ['Yes.] Cut it up for Whetstones & sent to Nova Scotia.'"

On the following day, Stiles made drawings of the inscriptions on two rocks in his Itinerary<sup>1</sup>, preceding them by the following remark: "Rocks marked, on the late Col. Almys Farm, about a hundred Rods below Fogland in Tiverton, Rh. Isld. The Stones are soft grit, & have suffered by time." Underneath each drawing are several indications of dimensions; and underneath the second is the statement: "A Third Stone obliterated and two other small Stones."

In the fourth volume of the Itineraries are several notes made twenty years later. On page 215, under date of September 15, 1788, is his memorandum, previously referred to, to "take off a new copy of the characters" here and elsewhere. On page 254

<sup>1</sup> Volume ii., pages 351, 352. See Plate XIX.

is a small road-map of his travels about this time. Near "Col. Almys" are three small circles with numbers between them, doubtless indicating the positions of the rocks and their distance apart, probably expressed in rods. One circle appears to represent a prominent boulder or ledge on the bank. At a distance of "2" rods directly west is another circle, representing probably the position of the first rock whose characters he copied; and at a distance of "6" southwest of this is the third circle, corresponding to his second drawing, taken from the rock now exposed to view. We know from the description given later by Webb that this is the direction in which the two rocks lie with reference to one another. But no one has ever told how far apart they are. Consequently, if ever the overlying stones get washed away again, or if anyone ever has the patience and energy to throw them off, this rather uncertain record by Stiles may aid in locating the one that is now concealed from view. Below this map, on the same page, is his final note concerning these rocks: "1788, Sept. 29. Rode with Mr Patten to Tiverton. Dined McCorys—took off the markt Rocks in Mr Jn<sup>o</sup> Almys Farm—lodged at Mr Almys Aet 69 at Punkataece<sup>1</sup>. 30. Storm NE. Copying more Rocks—Storm P. M. Tak<sup>s</sup> off Characters at Mr Almys. Oct. 1. Left Mr Almys." There is a brief reference to this same visit also in Stiles' published "Literary Diary" (iii. 330), with mention merely of "hav<sup>e</sup> stopt one day to take off Inscriptions on the Rocks at Fogland Ferry." The drawings made on this occasion are not preserved.

When Edward A. Kendall compiled his "List of Indian Sculptures" in 1809<sup>2</sup>, he erroneously interpreted Stiles' manuscripts as indicating two localities here instead of one. His item 11 reads: "In Narragansett Bay, on the lands of the late Col. Almy, on the peninsula of Paucatuc, on the east side of the bay, and at six miles from the shore;" and item 12: "In the same, at Tiverton." Evidently Paucatuc should have been writ-

<sup>1</sup> This is the name of the neck lying between Nonquit Pond and Sakonnet River. Stiles elsewhere spells it "Punkatace," and it is also sometimes given as "Punkatest" or "Puncoteast."

<sup>2</sup> See these Collections, July, 1920, xiii. 92; Kendall's Travels, 1809, iii. 221.



ten Punkatace, the distance mentioned was not from the shore but from some other place (probably Newport), and with these corrections the two items should have been combined into one.

Soon after the Committee of the Rhode Island Historical Society had finished its new drawing of Dighton Rock for Professor Rafn in 1834, it began to seek out other inscribed rocks of the vicinity. It learned, from Kendall's list or otherwise, that there were such rocks in Tiverton. On November 30, 1834, Dr. Webb reported for the Committee to Rafn: "None such have been found by us. The one in Tiverton we have marked [on the chart] near Howland's Ferry Bridge, because we apprehend that this shared the fate common to all rocks in that vicinity for some distance around, when the last bridge was built at that place in 1809, which was constructed by dropping immense quantities of stones of all dimensions into the water till a rampart was raised above the surface of the highest tide. The water here at the lowest tide is fifty-one feet."<sup>1</sup> There appears to be no reason to believe, however, that there ever was any inscribed rock in this part of Tiverton. On May 26, 1835, William A. Staples reported to the trustees of the Society that he had found and visited the Inscription Rocks in Tiverton; and "the secretary was requested to correspond with Dr. Patten and others to procure a copy of the drawings of the Inscription said to have been taken in 1783 by Dr. Stiles."<sup>2</sup> They were not successful in securing copies of Stiles' drawings. But Webb and Bartlett visited the rocks on the 18th of August, made drawings of their inscriptions, and on October 31, 1835, made the following report to Rafn:

"The inscriptions are on masses of gray-wacke, near a ledge of the same rock, occurring on the shore of Mr. Almy's farm, a short distance to the N.W. of the High Hill. The Drawings sent marked No. 4, 5 & 6 exhibit the present condition of the Inscriptions. No. 4 and 5 are on a line ranging from N.E. to S.W. No. 4 is a very large mass, if not in fact a continuous portion of the ledge near by. It being buried in the ground, we

<sup>1</sup> *Antiquitates Americanae*, p. 372.

<sup>2</sup> Manuscript Records of the Society, July 21, 1835.

were unable to decide the point. The markings are on its upper surface, which is inclined at an angle of a few degrees to the N. and that part which is uncovered, measures  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length and 6 feet in breadth. It is utterly impossible for us to conjecture what was formerly in the vacant spaces; we can only state, they were occupied with some kind of characters. The individual, upon whose land they are, thinks there was never any thing but human figures on them; but sufficient even now remains to prove the incorrectness of his opinion; look, for instance, at the figure resembling somewhat a cross, and at the one a little below it, to the right. This rock has a crevice running across it near the upper left hand corner; and a portion has been broken away at the upper right hand corner. The characters on another lying between No. 4 and No. 5 have become entirely obliterated. Those on No. 5 faced to the N.W. and the space they occupied measured 4 feet by 7 feet. The human figure on this rock is more distinct and perfect than the rest, being formed on a much larger scale, and the indentations being deeper. The peculiarity about the left knee will not escape your notice. No. 6 is a small stone of a schistose structure lying a short distance to the S. of the others, and might be lifted by two stout men; it is of the size of the outline sent, on which the characters are represented of their true dimensions. These are formed in a different manner from the others and perhaps are of a different origin; although we do not pretend to decide upon the matter; they are channelled or grooved, and appear to have been made by a chizel or smooth cutting instrument. Previously to 1815, according to Mr. Almy, the characters were so plain, that they could be clearly distinguished at some distance from the rocks. . . . The distance across, from the Tiverton Rocks to the Rhode Island shore is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile and to Newport  $6\frac{1}{4}$  miles."<sup>1</sup> The portions of the letter here omitted discuss the obliterating effect of storms and have already been quoted.

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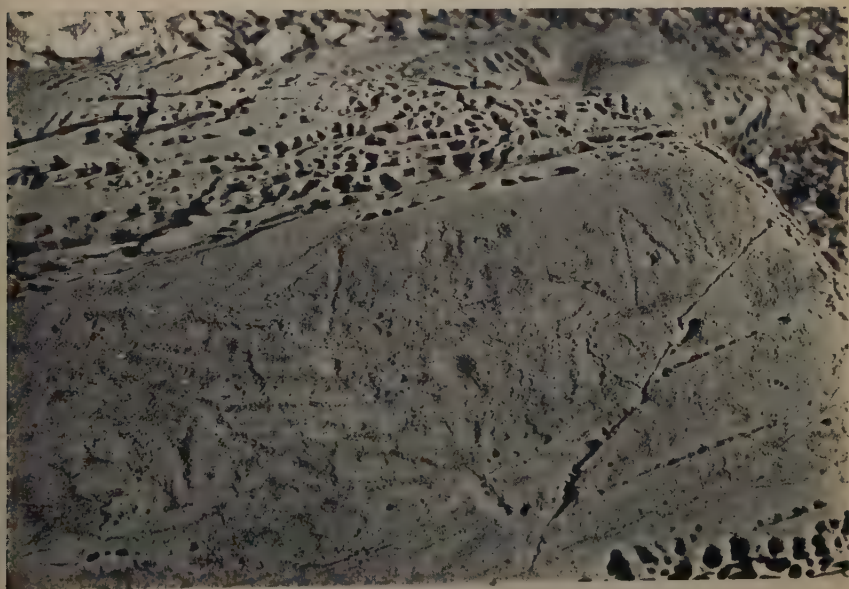
<sup>1</sup> *Antiquitates Americanae*, p. 402. See also this Society's manuscript Correspondence and Reports, vol. ii., pp. 49, 74.



PETROGLYPHS OF NARRAGANSETT BAY—PLATE XVIII



The group of Tiverton boulders as seen from the south, looking toward Fogland Point



Photograph of Tiverton inscription by John R. Hess, October 29, 1919,  
at 5 P.M.

PETROGLYPHS OF NARRAGANSETT BAY—PLATE XIX



(Stiles's First Drawing)

(The lowest line in the above reads F 8 Inc. to +)



(Stiles's Second Drawing)

Drawings of Tiverton inscriptions by Ezra Stiles, June 7, 1768; reproduced from Stiles's manuscript *Itineraries*, II. 351, 352.



Instead of reproducing the Webb-Bartlett drawings as given in *Tabella XIII* of *Antiquitates Americanae*, our Plate XX presents the originals of them in possession of the Rhode Island Historical Society. Like the Portsmouth drawings, these are on sheets of paper measuring  $15\frac{1}{2}$  by  $19\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and are here shown much reduced. Almost the only important difference between them and the reproductions by Rafn is that the latter erroneously prints "6 x  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet" underneath No. 5 instead of underneath No. 4, where it belongs, and thus fails to print the correct "4 x 7 feet" underneath No. 5.

The only further report upon these rocks based upon personal inspection that we possess is that of Dr. Samuel A. Green in 1868, already cited. Although he knew that three sculptured rocks had been found here by Webb, he could then discover but one of them. "Of the missing two at Tiverton, one is known to have been taken away several years ago and kept as a curiosity near a farm house. It was afterwards built into a wall in such a way that the pictured face could not be seen. . . . The stone at Tiverton is a mica-slate. . . . Many of the marks are still distinct and well-defined, and perhaps were made by the same tribe that made those on Dighton Rock. They are of interest as early specimens of rude Indian art."

In these accounts, there is evidence that at least six rocks bearing man-made characters were once included in this Tiverton group. Giving them arbitrary numbers, and assuming as few as possible, they were as follows: 1. The one reported to Stiles as having been cut up into whetstones in 1762 and sent to Nova Scotia. 2. The first of Dr. Stiles; Webb's No. 4; now buried deeply underneath the stone-heaps on the shore; perhaps to be sought two rods west of a prominent rock or ledge on the bank, and six rods northeast of the rock still exposed to view. 3. Webb's stone, with characters obliterated between his No. 4 and No. 5; probably identical with the "third stone obliterated" of Dr. Stiles; now buried under loose stones. 4. The second of Dr. Stiles; Webb's No. 5; the one now visible on the shore. 5. Webb's No. 6, originally a short distance to the south of his No. 5, where no such boulder can now be found, although there

are no overlying stones on that part of the beach; perhaps identical with one of Stiles' "two other small stones," and with the one reported by Dr. Green as having been removed and built into a stone wall. 6. The second of Stiles' "two other small stones"; not now discoverable; had probably disappeared before 1835.

The same theories that we discussed at length as having been advanced to account for the Portsmouth Inscriptions<sup>1</sup> apply here also. Dr. Stiles regarded them as of Phoenician origin. Rafn and Magnusen believed that they were made by the Northmen, and they found on these rocks as well as on those in Portsmouth certain characters which they declared to be "unquestionable" runic letters. These were tabulated in our Figure 3, whose numbers 7 to 13 belong to the Tiverton Rocks. Number 13 is easily seen on the Webb-Bartlett drawing of rock No. 5, and the others were discovered probably on drawing No. 4. Comparison with the Stiles drawings and with our photograph shows that not one of them has any claim to acceptance as a character actually present on the rocks. They are probably almost obliterated and wholly doubtful fragments of larger designs now indecipherable. Bliss, Wilhelmi, Hermes and Kunstmann supported the Norse view, but merely as expounders of Rafn. De Costa opposed the Norse theory, but advanced no other opinion. Bacon was cautious and non-committal, rather inclining to believe in the Northmen. Strong advocates of the belief that Indians made the inscriptions we found in Kendall, Bartlett, Winsor, Green and Babcock<sup>2</sup>. To these latter we must add E. G. Squier, who held that the inscriptions at Dighton, Tiverton and Portsmouth "do not seem to differ materially in character" from the many other Indian pictographs that he had observed<sup>3</sup>.

There are two additional theories which have been applied to these Tiverton rocks without the usual simultaneous reference

<sup>1</sup> These Collections, July 1920, xiii. 86-93.

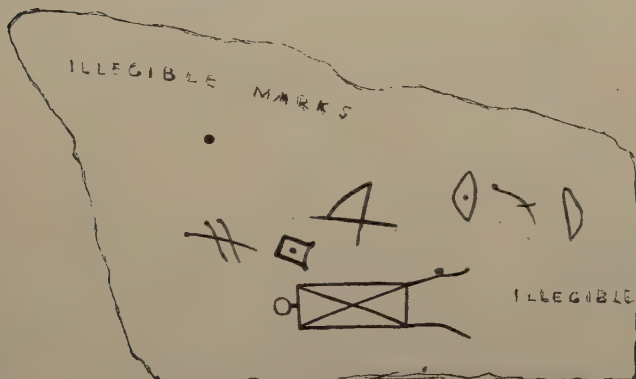
<sup>2</sup> The sources for all of these opinions are fully cited in the writer's Bibliography of Dighton Rock, in Publications of the Colonial Soc. of Mass., 1920, xx. 438-462.

<sup>3</sup> Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, 1847, i. 298, 300.

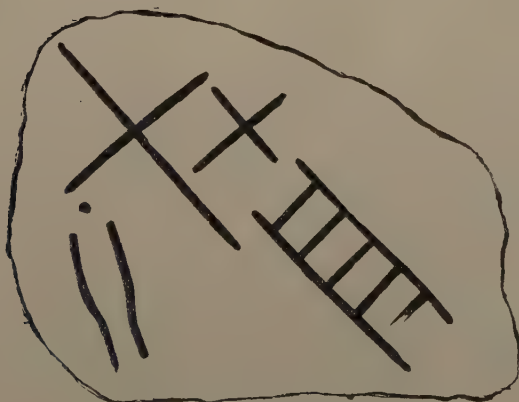




(Webb-Bartlett Drawing "No. 4. 6x8½ feet")



(Webb-Bartlett Drawing "No. 5. 4x7 feet")



(Webb-Bartlett Drawing "No. 6")

Drawings of Tiverton inscriptions by John R. Bartlett, August 18, 1835; reproduced from the originals in possession of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

to those at Portsmouth, and which consequently we did not mention in discussing the latter, although their supporters would undoubtedly have considered them as applying equally well there. One of these is the view expounded in 1824 by John Finch and in 1888 by James N. Arnold, which we have previously alluded to,<sup>1</sup> that the rocks at Tiverton and elsewhere are Druidical monuments. The other is the equally absurd belief of John Whipple that there are no artificial characters at all on these rocks. Dr. Thomas H. Webb is authority for this fact, in a letter which he wrote to John R. Bartlett on February 4, 1838: "John Whipple laughs at the whole affair, denies that there are any such figures as we represent on the Tiverton Rocks, *having visited them* many times, that there are *hundreds of just such rocks* in our Bay, all of which were *marked by the action of water, stones, &c*, and that these markings have by the conjurings of our imaginations been fashioned into the shapes delineated on our plates. He considers the Inscription Rocks, Animal Magnetism, & Phrenology, among the humbugs of the day."<sup>2</sup>

We need have no hesitation now in entertaining the conviction that these carvings were made at some unknown date by the aboriginal inhabitants of the region. They seem to be executed in the characteristic style of the Indians, now familiar to us through numerous far-scattered examples. These at Tiverton, of course, as in every other individual case, have a content different from that of any others. They include a large number of rudely executed human figures, which, though not lacking, are much less numerous on other rocks of our region. But these appear to have no significant grouping, to tell no story, and are probably the record of individual fancy. The other markings do not seem to be representations of anything definite, and must probably be classed as merely whimsical or decorative scribblings.

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<sup>1</sup> These Collections, January 1921, xv. 20.

<sup>2</sup> Preserved in Letter-Book of John R. Bartlett (unpublished), now in the John Carter Brown Library.



## The Wallum Pond Estates

BY HARRY LEE BARNES

(Continued from April Number)

### *The Revolution.*

On September 19, 1776, the Town Council sought to encourage enlistments for the protection of Newport by offering 3 pounds as a bonus in addition to the regular pay given the State troops and by promising to replace the firearms furnished by each soldier if it should be taken from him by a stronger power. A record of the meeting of the Town Council on May 5th, 1777, shows that the State draught included the following land-owners of the Allum Pond neighborhood: Ezra Stone, Jeremiah Ballard, Jethro Lapham, John Howland, Jr., James Stone and Thomas Herendeen, who were to serve under Col. Chad Brown.

### *The Jennes.*

Timothy Jenne of Uxbridge, Mass., bought Ballard's sawmill, gristmill and other property Sept. 30, 1778. During the next few years Jenne cleared the land on his farm, the extent of this clearing being greater than is indicated by the present open space about the Sanatorium buildings. The land west of the present buildings was used as a pasture about half way to the Lake, the cattle using the spring just below the West Ward. The pine grove between the Sanatorium buildings and the Superintendent's cottage and the one south of the sewage plant have gradually grown up since 1858. In 1786, Timothy Jenne's brother, Seth, a carpenter, came to Allum Pond and bought 58½ acres of the southern part of the Jenne farm. During the same year the Jenne brothers built a dam and mill at the lowest mill privilege which was on Seth's land and but a stone's throw east of the present boiler house. This mill privilege was soon sold in shares often as small as sixteenths to John Howland, John Kimball, Daniel Hunt and others, who sold it back and forth to each other with bewildering frequency. Many owners probably sold their shares as soon as they had got out what lumber they wished

for their own buildings. Timothy Jenne sold the Ballard mills and dwelling house to Chad Field, who immediately sold it to Jacob Lathrop and Seth Hayward. In order to safeguard the lower mill privilege, Jenne, five days later, bought back from Field a limited privilege couched in the following language: "I Chad Field etc., do grant to Seth & Timothy Jenne a privilege to draw water through my grist mill dam to support a sawmill at all times when the water is above the lower part of the letter T on the north side of a rock at the upper end and south side of the South ditch where the water runs from Allum Pond to my grist mill and I do bind myself to keep a gate sufficient in my gristmill dam to dam water as above mentioned—I bind myself not to turn the water out of the place where it now runs to the sawmill except what water the mill makes use of to water his land,—and I do grant a privilege to turn the water out of my grist mill pond to water his land sufficiently 2 nights in a week and no more from the 15th day of the 4th month to the 15th day of the 7th month." A natural outlet to the pond was the north ditch which led by a gradual descent through a swamp back of the place which is now O'Neil's Camp. This outlet was not suitable for the development of water power and was stopped by an artificial embankment plainly visible from the pond at this day. During high water the overflow is still sufficient to fill this brook. On June 5, 1793, Timothy Jenne bought back from Seth Jenne about an acre of land a few rods below the lower sawmill as a site for a fulling mill, but there is no evidence that this mill was ever built. Timothy, or possibly his brother, built a new house near the site of the first Sanatorium barn, the cellar hole of which was still to be seen when the Sanatorium opened in 1905. This house had disappeared before 1840, according to old residents. Timothy Jenne probably died about 1812, and with his wife, Abigail, and some of his seven children, were said to have been buried in the little burying ground which was located under the site of the Sanatorium East Ward<sup>1</sup>. Some of the old head stones were marked Jenne and skeletons were exhumed during

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<sup>1</sup> Statement to the writer by Seth Darling, Michael McDermott and others.



the excavation for the foundation of this building. William Green claimed that a burial took place there as late as 1850. Jacob Jenne, Timothy's son, married Thos. Howland's daughter, Dorcas, who lived to be over 100 years old. It is of some interest to know that an inventory of Jacob Jenne's goods at his death in 1816, showed 1 bushel of corn and 25 bushels of rye but no wheat and that Dorcas had 13 pewter plates valued at \$1.50 each, 9 pewter spoons, 3 pewter platters, a pair of weaving looms and warping bars. They kept 2 cows, a pair of oxen, a pig and 2 geese.

### *The King Place*

James King bought the place where the Sanatorium garden is now located, of Hoziel Hopkins, Feb. 5, 1793. The old house was a few feet west of the present cellar hole and the barn a little farther west. Hopkins and King cleared the land to the southward about half the way to the Buck Hill road. Either Hopkins or King cleared and drained the large swamp to the westward where the cranberry bog is now located by ditching the swamp itself and also by turning the little brook, which enters the south end of the cranberry bog, eastward across the present Sanatorium garden<sup>1</sup> and the highway so that this water reached Clear River without entering the swamp or the pond. The swamp was then cultivated and was very fertile. Samuel White is quoted as saying that it grew 'the biggest corn' of any place in this vicinity. Considerable land was cleared east of the highway where the old apple trees may still be seen. At this time King kept a lot of stock, about 40 head, according to Levi Darling, and for many years he owned a share in and operated the lower sawmill opposite the present boiler house. He died on the old place, his will being probated Jan. 2, 1819. His wife, Hannah, and daughter, Keziah, probably lived there some time afterward, as his will provided that his son, James, should keep one cow and four sheep for each of them for the rest of their natural lives. James King, 2nd, lived in this vicinity until 1822,

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<sup>1</sup> The ditch was visible until filled by ploughing a few years ago.

when he moved to Pennsylvania. The old King house<sup>1</sup> probably rotted down as there was rotten timber but no house there after 1840. The farm came into the possession of Dr. Levi Eddy, King's son-in-law, who held it until his death in 1844. After passing through the hands of Stephen Arnold, and Enos Lapham, at one time Lieutenant-Governor of the State, the King place was bought by Benjamin Green. About 1852, Green built a new house somewhat nearer the road where the cellar hole may yet be seen. The well is still used by the Sanatorium farm employees. Green had a barn or shed about 100 feet to the north of his house. The Green house burned down while occupied by Edward Wells about 1893. His wife had left the place to carry her husband's dinner and returned to find it in flames. The Green barn was moved to Pascoag about this time. Whether cranberries were present in the old bog before James King drained and converted it into a cornfield is unknown, but cranberries were growing there by 1848<sup>2</sup>. About 1860, Green built a dam high enough to flood the bog 3 or 4 feet to prevent the vines being frost killed. W. H. Green claimed that over 500 bu. of cranberries were raised here in one season.

*The Azariah Phillips Place.*

Azariah Phillips bought a few acres of land northeasterly of the present Sanborn house, Nov. 20, 1795, and built a small house. He was a cooper by trade and operated a lathe to get out his stock. He made fiddles, baskets, old-fashioned splint-bottom chairs and other furnishings. Azariah Phillips died shortly before Jan. 19, 1837, at which time his will was probated. His widow afterward kept house for Randall Angell and while picking up chips was killed by a buck sheep. Benjamin Sweet afterward lived in this house, and still later it was occupied by negroes. The house was taken down by Benjamin Green about 1850, when ready to collapse.

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<sup>1</sup> Statement to the writer by Seth Darling, Wm. Green and others.

<sup>2</sup> Thos. Green to writer.



*First Cotton Mill.*

Bani Phillips bought the old Ballard gristmill of Hayward and Lathrop, Sept. 20, 1804, and Jan. 25, 1805, respectively, and soon after built a small cotton mill on this site. The exact date of the building of the mill is not known but must have been before Oct. 12, 1812, when he sold it fully equipped. During the next 11 years this mill was owned in whole or in part by Jeremiah, David, Robert, Harley, and Ostrander Phillips and George Lindley, who bought and sold it to each other until in December, 1819, the Court of Common Pleas was called upon to unravel the tangle. The sawmill and gristmill were located just west of the highway bridge over Clear River, and the old Ballard house was a little northwest of the bridge. Only the central part of the house now owned by Sylvester Angell, just southwest of the bridge, was then in existence, the ells having been built later. All these buildings were awarded to David Phillips with the exception of one-half of the house southwest of the bridge, which, with the Howland farm, was set off to Jeremiah Phillips and George Lindley, July 28, 1820. Harley Phillips later got possession and sold to Peleg Walker, who died soon after he bought it.

*David Wilkinson<sup>1</sup>.*

David Wilkinson, a manufacturer, of North Providence, bought the cotton mill and other mills June 30, 1822, the price named being \$4,150. The cotton mill burned down some time before June 15, 1825, when he sold the water rights of Allum Pond to the Blackstone Canal Company. The company bought with the idea of storing the flood water and using it as a feeder for the canal, Clear River being a tributary of the Blackstone. Wilkinson stipulated that all the water drawn from the pond should pass through the flume of his mill and that the flood water reserved should be drawn off each year before Jan. 1st. After the burning of his cotton mill, David Wilkinson bought

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<sup>1</sup> The writer is uncertain whether this David Wilkinson was the David Wilkinson who invented a sliding lathe, and whose sister became the wife of Samuel Slater.

various properties of both wood and improved lands about Allum Pond. He owned and operated both sawmills and carried on lumbering operations and charcoal burning on an extensive scale. He built a wood road leading from the mill southwesterly to the Buck Hill road. This road leads to a peat bog about a mile from the Sanatorium. On this road there were formerly at least two houses where people made hoops<sup>1</sup>.

### *The Second Cotton Mill.*

Wilkinson became involved in debt and John Whipple, as assignee for his estate, sold the entire Allum Pond property on May 7, 1831, to Levi Darling and others for \$2,000.00. Darling moved his family into the old Phillips house, added on the two ells and planted the three maple trees in the front yard which are there to-day. About 1835, Darling built a shingle mill on the site of the old cotton mill. When the second cotton mill was built the shingle mill was taken down. The firm of Sweet and James (Philip Sweet and Albert G. James) leased the upper mill privileges from the Darlings, Aug. 3, 1844. Levi Darling built a new dam on the site of the old one just back of his house, where it may still be seen. The dam and gate at the outlet of the lake were raised and the old log dam at the north outlet was also raised and strengthened. Darling built a two-story frame building 50 feet long by 37 feet wide for the factory and installed a water wheel 18 feet in diameter. He also built a cotton house and sizing house. Albert James sold his interest in the firm, Sept. 11, 1845, to Lovell Parker and Joseph Bowdish (1810-1900) and the next spring (May 1, 1846) Stephen Tallman replaced Parker and Bowdish. The cotton was drawn from Providence and the cloth sold there to Amos D. Lockwood & Co., who received a 5 per cent commission on all goods bought and sold. Sweet and Tallman complained that the water power was insufficient, and this must have been true because of the low elevation of the mill pond. The mill employed about 25 persons and created a demand for more house room for opera-

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<sup>1</sup> Sylvester Angell to writer.



tives. In the summer of 1845, Daniel Kimball built a dwelling house about 50 feet to the west of the highway and almost directly in front of the present location of the Superintendent's cottage, on land owned by his mother, Serina Kimball. His wife, Eliza, for several years kept boarders who worked in the mill. That same summer, Abel Robbins bought a half acre lot extending both sides of the highway near the road which now enters the rear of the Sanatorium buildings and built a two-tenement house. Part of the excavation for the first Sanatorium barn was in the cellar of the Robbins house. The old Timothy Jenne house was located but a few feet farther to the northwest. This house had been gone sometime when the Robbins house was built. Abel Robbins' son, Gilbert, who afterward became Mayor of Providence, lived here. This same year, Levi Darling moved the Jenne house which stood on the knoll south of the Sanatorium tennis court to its present position as the Wallum Lake Store. After it was moved, this house formed the south end of the upper story of the present house, the north end and basement being new<sup>1</sup>. Darling also built a small store at the turn of the road, about 20 yards north of the bridge over Clear River. The old Ballard house was still used as a tenement and a blacksmith shop was built near the store. April 2, 1847, Tallman and Sweet sold the machinery of the mill to Benedict Lapham for \$481. The list of machinery shows that there were 64 spindles.

*The Laphams Are Balked.*

Benedict Lapham obtained a five-year lease from the Darlings on August 14th of the same year. Enos Lapham, who afterward became Lieutenant-Governor of the State, was overseer in this mill. For over four years, the Laphams ran the mill successfully. They then endeavored to buy out Darling and thus obtain complete control of the water privilege with the intention of developing an extensive manufacturing plant. Had this happened, the mills would probably have been located near the lower

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<sup>1</sup> Seth Darling (1829-1907) to writer.

water privileges, as the two upper privileges were too near the level of Wallum Pond to allow of the power being fully developed or economically used. It is said on good authority that a deed conveying the whole Darling property to Lapham was drawn and signed by both Darling and Lapham and that it was rendered void by the refusal of Hannah Darling to sign unless she received an additional \$500 for herself. Whatever reason Mrs. Darling may have had for her action, her refusal to sign the deed was a turning point in history, for had the Laphams acquired the property, their business ability, influence and money would probably have resulted in the development of a manufacturing village at Wallum Pond.

### *The Woolen Mill.*

After the departure of the Laphams, Darling leased the factory to George W. Marsh, Augustus Hopkins, Walling & Hopkins and Syria Sherman. After this firm gave up, another firm tried to run it as a woolen mill but lasted only about six months. After several sales, mortgages, etc., to Marsh and others, Edward H. Marsh, on July 31, 1860, sold all the water rights to the outlet of Wallum Pond, the price named being \$7,500, and the control of the outlet has been held by Bridgeton manufacturers ever since. The mill was afterward taken down and moved to Manchaug, Mass., where it was used in the construction of a mill<sup>1</sup>. The store was also moved to the same place, where it was converted into a dwelling house. The little house above the factory, built by Ballard, which had been used as a dwelling by Benjamin Greene, was used for an ice house until 1880, when it was taken down. The Robbins house was bought and moved to Mapleville by Daniel Kimball. Kimball's house was moved to Pascoag, where it still stands near the shop of the Inman Lumber Company. The cellars of the Kimball, Robbins and Jenne houses were filled in 1906. Daniel Kimball's barn, the foundation of which is still visible about 200 feet north of the Sanatorium Laundry on the same side of the highway, was

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<sup>1</sup> William Green (1841- ) to writer.

moved to Centredale about 1880 by Edward Sayles. Levi Darling sold all his Wallum Pond property, Nov. 9, 1863, to Seth Ross and Sylvester Angell and moved to Douglas, Mass. In March, 1868, Sylvester Angell bought out Ross and thus became sole owner.

### *The Civil War.*

The boys from Wallum Pond neighborhood who fought to save the Union were: Alfred Angell, Sabin Angell, Olney Arnold, Amasa Buxton, Thomas Greene, William Greene, Benjamin Horton, Jerome Horton, Andrew Howland, James Riley, Mowry Salisbury, Judson Wadkins, John Friery, Wellington Daw, James M. Vickers and Emory White. James Riley was wounded at Fredericksburg, and Amasa Buxton and Jerome Horton died in the service. When the boys returned they noticed a striking change, as the mill and many of the dwellings had been moved away.

### *The Pond Traditions.*

A dugout boat with carving believed to have been made by Indians, was seen by Ezra Stone, 2nd<sup>1</sup>, when a young man. Joseph Bowdish found and raised a sunken dugout boat and used it for carrying charcoal across the Pond<sup>2</sup>. A dugout boat was also seen by Daniel Buxton<sup>2</sup> and others. Sylvester Angell<sup>3</sup> found and used an old dugout boat many years ago which showed no trace of Indian workmanship. Quite possibly, all these men saw the same boat, which might have been preserved almost indefinitely if sunk. It had been cut out with an axe or similar tool. If made by the Indians, it must have been in later years after acquiring white men's tools. It is much more likely that it was made by the early settlers before the first sawmill in 1766.

The pond is, for the most part, spring fed, so that a swimmer notices many cold spots. It is from 30 to 50 feet deep in most

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<sup>1</sup> Wm. Kimball to writer.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas O'Neil to writer.

<sup>3</sup> Statement to writer.



places, and, in the middle, north of Long Cove, soundings have been made 79 feet below high water. A small brook which drains the cranberry bog enters the south cove; another enters the north end; and in high water, two tiny streams enter on the west and one on the east side.

The beach at the north end has exceptionally sharp sand which, as late as 60 years ago was used in making rifles used in sharpening scythes<sup>1</sup>.

Before 1850, a man by the name of Nathan Stone was drowned just off the big rock where the Sanatorium water intake pipe is at present located<sup>2</sup>. He had gone out after wild geese and the ice broke under him. Still earlier, a fisherman fell from an old scow that had been used to carry logs across the pond to the mills, and was drowned<sup>2</sup>. Francis Whiting, a boy 10 or 12 years old, while bathing at the north end, stepped into a hole and drowned. The Lime Rock Fishing Club, which rented the house north of the Superintendent's Cottage, lost one of its members by drowning sometime after 1893. The man was trying to pick up a fish hook and line which had caught on the bottom. Pickerel and perch fishing were very good up to the time the lake was stocked with bass, which was sometime about 1860.

When Daniel Kimball was fishing through the ice in Long Cove one time<sup>3</sup>, the ice separated and left open water between him and the shore. He was obliged to wait until sometime after dark, when the ice cake drifted ashore at the mouth of the cove.

While the mill was running well under the Laphams, Parker Bowdish and other employees had a small sail boat. Many old people say that Caleb Eldridge swam the whole length of the pond in a race in which his opponent was unable to finish. His name appears on an old deed in 1799. Some time about 1880, a panther escaped from a circus in Webster and was seen occasionally in the Douglas woods for over a year. Wild pigeons were plentiful here as elsewhere and were killed as late as Levi

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<sup>1</sup> Seth Ross to writer.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Seth Darling to writer.

<sup>3</sup> Sylvester Angell to writer.

Darling's time. Foxes, coons and rabbits are still numerous to the southwest of the pond. Otter and mink were present in Wallum Pond many years ago<sup>1</sup> and probably are still present. In the old days, there were beaver on Clear River near Wilson's Pond<sup>2</sup>. Horace Whiting caught an otter in the Whiting Pond in the Buck Hill district about 1895, an occasional mink, the last one in the Lewis Brook in 1920, and, during the last 30 years, has shot 89 foxes, most of them in the Buck Hill woods. A rattlesnake was killed in the woods south of the tennis court since 1860<sup>3</sup>.

The pine grove back of the Superintendent's cottage used to be a ball ground when the mill was running. On the west shore of the pond, near the north end, is a clay deposit which was used in the old days for making brick. The brick yard was located near the Providence Ice Company's house, where, until recently, traces of brick could be found. The chimney brick in many of the old houses of this vicinity came from this yard. These brick were small, irregular and very hard. The brick yard was abandoned, perhaps, before 1800.

#### *The Sanborn House.*

Stephen Collins, who worked a long time for Levi Darling, built a small house on the hill south of the Sanatorium, having bought the land of Darling April 17, 1840. Collins sold to Mason W. Porter, a shoemaker, March 6, 1854. Porter sold Nov. 8, 1858, to an Englishman by the name of Wm. Prince, who was a woodchopper and who lived there with his wife and daughter until the property was bought by Thomas M. Green, April 12, 1862. Green tore down the Collins house and rebuilt it with lumber obtained from the old cotton house in 1868. He worked in the Hopkins Machine Works and finally sold out to Hopkins & Co., April 6, 1898. Morton C. Sanborn, the caretaker of the Sanatorium buildings while they were under construction, bought the place July 28, 1905, shortly before the

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<sup>1</sup> Judson Wadkins to writer.

<sup>2</sup> Randall Angell to Sylvester Angell to writer.

<sup>3</sup> William Green to writer.

Sanatorium opened. He put the buildings in repair and it has been rented to Sanatorium employees ever since.

### *The Two Lower Mill Privileges.*

About 1820, a turning lathe was in operation just below the Clear River bridge. The middle mill privilege near the present swimming pool was developed about 1844, the sawmill and gristmill which had been at the upper privilege having been moved here to make room for the second cotton factory. The mills were close together so that one could step from one to the other, the grist mill being on the east and the sawmill on the west side of the dam. These mills had an advantage over most of the mills dependent on water power, as there was a large reserve of water in Wallum Pond. During dry spells, the old gristmill was often run both night and day, and corn has many times been brought out here from Providence for grinding. Sylvester Angell put in the first iron water wheel and the first circular saw, wooden wheels and up and down saws having been used previously. The gristmill was closed about 1867 and a cider mill installed in its place. Mr. Angell continued to operate the sawmill occasionally until it burned in January, 1907. It had been necessary in the old days to have two mill privileges, as there was such a demand for both grinding corn and sawing lumber, but, as the demand lessened, the lower mill opposite the Sanatorium boiler house was allowed to rot down, which occurred before 1845. The upper mill pond was formerly used for skating, as it froze over much earlier than Wallum Pond.

### *The Adam White Road.*

Opposite the entrance to the driveway approaching the front of the Sanatorium is an old wood road leading eastward through the pine grove across Clear River and over the railroad to the east road from Wallum Pond Hill to Pascoag. This wood road was formerly a highway, having been laid out June 27, 1812<sup>1</sup>, and abandoned before 1840. Between the railroad and the east highway, was the Adam White farm, formerly belonging to

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<sup>1</sup> Burrillville Town Council Records, Vol. 1, page 30.





Statue of Roger Williams on the Monument  
International de la Réformation at  
Geneva, Switzerland

*Courtesy of Madame E. Hugli*



The Providence Cove in 1818.  
From an old Painting by Alvan Fisher  
*Now in the Possession of the Rhode Island Historical Society*

William Clark. The house at the junction of this road with the east highway belonged to Samuel White. This house was burned by a forest fire, about 1910, and the barn removed in 1920. Samuel White hired and boarded women who worked hand looms in the basement of his house, the yarn being obtained from mills in the vicinity. In excavating for the cellar of his house, a skeleton was exhumed which tradition says was of a man of unusual height. In the old days, a cart path<sup>1</sup> led northerly from the Adam White place along a low ridge coming out near George Stone's tannery. A house on this path was at one time occupied by Asahel Alger.

#### *A Cure in Early Times.*

In view of the later development of a health centre at Wallum Pond, it is of interest to learn of a consumptive treated in this vicinity in 1850. Ara Paine<sup>2</sup>, then a boy of 14, after about three years of cough, expectoration, blood-spitting and other symptoms, was given up as a hopeless consumptive by his physician. His grandmother, Prudence (1772-1851), wife of the Rev. Moab Paine, received him into her home, about two miles easterly of the Sanatorium, and not only cheered, rested and fed him well, as grandmothers are wont to do, but removed the two large windows from his bedroom that he might have the open air, night and day. Several months of this regimen started him on the road to health which has lasted through his 50 years in the practice of medicine and still persists after 71 years have passed away.

#### *The Peters Place.*

In going from Wallum Pond toward Pascoag in 1905, one passed through about two miles of woodland, much of which had been cleared by the old settlers, and which had since grown up to woods. The Sanatorium, in making its garden, had cleared about 10 acres of woodland west of the highway near the old King or Green place, while the opposite side of the road is to-day

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<sup>1</sup> Sylvester Angell to writer.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Ara Paine to writer.



woodland, where once there was meadow and orchard. About 1,500 feet beyond the King cellar hole on the left hand side of the road, is an apple tree. This tree was so straight and handsome a shoot, about 55 years ago, that Seth Ross bought it for 50 cents, intending to set it out in his orchard and graft it; but he postponed action until it was finally too large to transplant. This apple tree is near the cellar of the Peters house. Israel Peters (1788-1872), who lived here in 1827, built for the town the road over Buck Hill where there had been previously only a cart path. He afterward moved to East Boston, Conn. Rossel Burlingame bought the place in 1833 and lived here for a time. There was then an orchard, clover lot and pasture on the east side of the road. The buildings on this place which were standing in 1835<sup>1</sup> were gone before 1840.

#### *The Scott Tragedy.*

James Scott, an Irishman, cleared a patch of land on the west side of the Wallum Pond road at its junction with the Buck Hill road and built a shanty, where he usually lived alone, about 1856. He kept two cows, a pig, and a big black dog. He walked to and from his place of work in the White Mill, at Bridgeton, drank hard and had the reputation of being quarrelsome when intoxicated. He was missing one winter night and no trace of him was found until the ice broke up the next spring, when his body was found in Wilson's Pond. Although certain persons were suspected of foul play, no official action was ever taken. The Scott cabin was afterward taken to Chepachet by Job Smith.

#### *The Wells Place.*

A few rods before reaching the Buck Hill corner, a road on the left leads through the woods to the Wells place. Rossel Burlingame bought this farm of Levi Eddy, Oct. 11, 1834. Arnold Hunt and Dennis Hunt bought it in 1838, and, in 1839, sold to Silas and William Howard. Amasa Seamans, who had a wooden leg, bought it, Jan. 5, 1842, and lived there with a large family for many years. Seamans also owned the Israel

<sup>1</sup> Seth Ross to writer.

Peters place. He sold out to go to Minnesota, and Esten Angell (1809-1889), who had bought out the Seamans, sold to Alfred L. Wells, Sept. 23, 1869. Wells and wife were living on this place up to about 1910. Since their death, Henry Johnson, who was a slave in Virginia before the Civil War, has occupied the house. In spite of his 84 years, he has few gray hairs, all his natural teeth, and is able to cut cord wood and enjoy life in a way which astonishes younger folks.

#### *The Whipple Angell Place.*

Continuing on the highway toward Pascoag about 500 feet beyond the Buck Hill Road, is a sharp turn to the right. On the east side of this turn, was a house which Whipple Angell (1793-1862) bought of James Stone, May 23, 1829. There were seven acres of cleared land about this place. Angell never lived here but rented it to negroes and others. The barn belonging to this farm was carried to Marienville, North Providence, where it was still standing a few years ago. An old road led easterly near this house across Clear River to the East Highway, thus giving a short cut for the Round Top folks to go over Buck Hill. This highway was abandoned by the town, May 20, 1809<sup>1</sup>. This place had so completely grown up to woods that lumber was cut here, about 1910.

#### *The Chase Lot.*

A few rods further on and easterly of the highway, about 100 feet north of Round Pond brook, was the house owned by Joseph and Ambrose Chase and later by other members of the Chase family from 1812 to 1825<sup>2</sup>. The land was cleared quite extensively east of the road as shown by the stone walls and stone heaps. This farm had an orchard to the east side and woodland on the west of the road. The place was sold to Duty Esten, April 2, 1833. Asahel Alger built another house on this

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<sup>1</sup> Records of the Burrillville Town Council, Vol I.

<sup>2</sup> The writer is uncertain whether this was a relative of, or the same Dr. Jos. Chase of Cumberland, who bought Elizabeth Gibbs' share of Dr. Gibbs' estate from James Burroughs, March 5, 1771.

site about 1860. There is a maple tree about 15 inches in diameter (1920) growing from the cellar.

The next farm below the Chase lot had been originally laid out in the right of Stephen Dexter, but was cleared and occupied by Randall Angell (1767-1855), who kept a hotel there at one time.

### *The Porter Place.*

In going from Wallum Pond toward Thompson, a few rods after turning into the Buck Hill Road, one passes Daniel Porter's old place. He bought 13 acres of land of Amasa Seamans, August 24, 1850. He was sometimes called Doctor and was said to have had a plentiful supply of pills, but is not known to have practiced here. He worked some at shoemaking; his son, Mason W., was also a shoemaker and later lived at the Sanborn house. Porter cleared some of the land on both sides of the road, dug the well and built the stone walls which are there to-day. In digging his well, he found some clear pieces of quartz which were said to have been hard enough to cut glass a few times and which he thought were diamonds, a circumstance that provoked enough neighborhood gossip and amusement to be remembered by the old timers. Nearly opposite this place is a wood road leading southwesterly to Round Pond. In 1855, Porter bought the Samuel Cruff farm and moved away.

### *The Ward Place.*

On the northerly side of the Buck Hill road about a third of a mile westerly of its junction with the Sanatorium road near a large flat stone by a bar way is an old cellar and well. This has always been called the Ward Place, from Eugene, Hiram, and Wm. Ward, who lived there at one time. The only interesting thing known about the Ward Place is how it came to end<sup>1</sup>. It was last occupied, about 1842, by Indians and negroes, who were guilty of various acts of mischief, including the throwing of a bull down the well. They did not move when Randall Angell, the owner, ordered them out, but, somewhat later, went down to

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<sup>1</sup> Statement to writer by Wm. R. Angell and others.



the sea shore for the summer. One night, Randall's son, Esten, and two neighbors, Hawkins and Ross, went to the Ward house. A few hours sawing of the beams made the old house collapse, and they returned to bed. When, the next day, a neighbor told Randall that the Ward house was flat, the latter appeared surprised and indignant. The lumber of this house went into Randall Angell's cattle shed.

*The Twist Place.*

About half way between the Ward Place and the top of Buck Hill, on the north side of the highway, is the cellar of a house once occupied by Asa Twist. The house was probably there in 1806 on the separation of Burrillville from Gloucester, as it is named in the Burrillville school records as a dividing line between Wallum Pond and Buck Hill districts and it had probably disappeared before 1819, as it was not remembered by Esten Angell<sup>1</sup>.

*The Trask Place.*

One who ascends Buck Hill from the east and sees the masses of boulders which almost cover the ground can but marvel at the courage of one who would attempt to clear land and build a house there. Yet we find a good foundation and cellar a few feet from the north side of the road at the foot of the last pitch, and partly cleared land to the northward. William Trask, who claimed to have been a veteran of the War of 1812 and who lived to be 107 years old, owned this place as early as 1826; the house was gone and the place grown up to weeds before 1850.

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<sup>1</sup> Wm. R. Angell to writer.

## Notes

The Rhode Island Society of the Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century has issued a leaflet entitled "History of the United States Flag." It is for use in the public schools of Rhode Island.

The second volume of the Rhode Island Court Records covering the period, 1662 to 1670, has been printed and placed on sale by the Rhode Island Historical Society.

The April Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society contains a paper by Mr. Jonas Bergner on "The Old House on Franklin Street" and one by Mrs. William P. Buffum on "The Story of the Old Friends' Meeting House."

*Antiques* for May contains an illustrated article on John Goddard of Newport and his furniture by Walter A. Dyer.

The following persons have been elected to membership in the Society:

Mrs. Charles K. Baker	Mr. Stephen C. Harris
Mr. Horatio E. Bellows	Mr. Charles F. Heartman
Mrs. Charles Bradley	Miss Hope K. Hodgman
Mr. Arthur D. Champlin	Mr. John S. Holbrook
Mr. William P. Chapin	Mrs. Donald E. Jackson
Mrs. Henry G. Clark	Mr. Francis B. Kinney
Mrs. Henry I. Cushman	Mrs. Webster Knight
Mrs. Murray S. Danforth	Mrs. I. Harris Metcalf
Mr. Robert T. Downs	Mr. James A. Pirce
— Mr. Cyrus T. Eddy	Mr. B. Thomas Potter
— Mr. William H. Eddy	Mr. Robert L. Spencer
Mr. Preston H. Gardner	Miss Louise Tillinghast
Miss Annette M. Ham	Mr. William P. Young

Four Sunday afternoon talks were held in March with an average attendance of about seventy-five persons.

The speakers and subjects were as follows:

March 5—Mr. Donald Cowell, "Rhode Island's Gift to Telephony."

March 12—Mr. Howard W. Preston, "Rochambeau and the French in Providence."

March 19—Mr. Norman M. Isham, "Dating of Early Houses."

March 26—Mrs. William H. Eddy, "How to Trace One's Ancestry."

Prof. Verner W. Crane read, before the April meeting, a paper entitled "Christopher Champlin, Merchant," illustrating the business customs and trade routes of Rhode Island ship owners in the period preceding and following the Revolution.

Among the many important accessions to the Library is the Stukeley Westcott Bible, the gift of Miss Lucetta A. Stone. This invaluable addition to our Library belonged to one of the original proprietors of Providence, and is one of four books remaining of those owned by the early settlers.

Mrs. Louise Lewis Lovell has presented the Society with her recent publication, "The Biography of Israel Angell." In addition to the biography, the volume contains over one hundred and fifty pages of transcription of original contemporary material dealing with the Revolution, supplementing on a large scale the "Diary of Israel Angell," published some years ago.

The Massachusetts Society of Colonial Dames has issued a book on American Samplers, by Bolton and Coe, a copy of which has been recently presented to the Society by the late Mrs. Samuel Powel.

Other gifts are as follows:

Nine volumes of their Manuscript Record Books, presented by the Providence Franklin Society.

Two fire buckets, marked "I. Angell," presented by Mrs. Rebecca F. Bradford.

A steel dye of the seal which belonged to Major General Ambrose E. Burnside, presented by Mr. William L. Manchester, of Bristol, Rhode Island.

Index to "Mayflower Descendants and Their Marriages," written and presented by Dr. Frank T. Calef.

An Indian corn grinding stone found on Wallum Hill, the gift of Mr. Ernest Singleton.



View of Providence (oil painting) the bequest of Miss Lucy A. Metcalf.

A volume of manuscripts, relating to the Ballou family, presented by Mrs. William Ballou.

One of the four mourning rings for Washington's hair has been presented by Col. George L. Shepley. It is the Abby Chase ring. There is an account of these rings and hair in the *Providence Journal* of Feb. 9, 1908, March 8, 1908, and July 25, 1920.

A manuscript genealogy of the Davis family consisting of 42 closely typewritten pages has been copied and added to the Society's Library.

Mr. George F. Dow of Boston has made an index of all the Rhode Island items which appeared in Boston newspapers before 1750 and his compilation is of great service to historical students. It has been purchased by Col. Shepley and can be consulted at the Shepley Library on Benefit Street.

Dr. Calef is at work on tracing the descendants of Roger Williams for two generations beyond the point that they are carried in Austin's "Ancestry of Thirty-Three Rhode Islanders." He will appreciate any data along these lines.

#### *Colonial Distinguishing Flags.*

A manuscript in the Rhode Island State Archives describes the distinguishing flags, then called vanes, that were used by the various contingents in the Canadian expedition of 1746. It is as follows:

"The Massachusetts Transports to Wear a Broad White Vane with a blue Ball at the Main Top Gallant Mast head.

"The Connecticut, Rhode Island & New Hampshire Vessells to Wear a Broad Blue Vane with a White Ball at the Main Top Gallant Mast head.

"The Transports from England, to wear a Broad Red Vane at the Main Top Gallant Mast head.

"These are for distinction."

(Letters, 1746, p. 36.)





FORM OF LEGACY

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"I give and bequeath to the Rhode Island  
Historical Society the sum of .....  
dollars."